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SACRAMENTO FAMILY INDICTED FOR
FRAUDULENT TAX REFUND SCHEME

SACRAMENTO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that on April 26, 2007, a federal grand jury returned an eight-count indictment charging SAMMY L. KELSON Jr., 36, SAMMETHIA Y. KELSON, 28, and YVONNE C. WEST, 48, of Sacramento, with conspiring to file false tax returns claiming fraudulent refunds and filing six false returns. WEST also is charged with attempted witness tampering. All three defendants will make their initial appearances before Magistrate Judge Gregory G. Hollows and be arraigned on the charges at 2:00 p.m. today.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that siblings SAMMY L. KELSON Jr. and SAMMETHIA Y. KELSON, along with their mother, YVONNE C. WEST, conspired to file and assist others in filing false income tax returns for tax year 2003 resulting in fraudulent refunds in excess of \$200,000. The indictment alleges that the KELSONS and others inflated their incomes in order to fraudulently claim Earned Income Tax Credits and obtain tax refunds. The indictment further

alleges that SAMMY L. KELSON Jr. and SAMMETHIA Y. KELSON filed false tax returns in their own names. Finally, the indictment alleges that YVONNE C. WEST assisted three individuals in filing false tax returns and attempted to tamper with the testimony of a witness.

The maximum statutory penalty for conspiring to defraud the government with respect to claims and attempting to tamper with a witness is ten years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. The maximum statutory penalty for filing a fraudulent tax return is five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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